

# THE Unexplained

MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

**Twin lives**  
**When birdmen swoop**  
**Where did Darwin go wrong?**  
**The PK effect**  
**UFOs land**

59





# THE Unexplained

MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

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A 20th-century clergyman meets Anne Boleyn – and quickly becomes father confessor to the ghost of the earthbound Henry VIII in **Return of the Tudors**. In the second part of our series **Psychic UFOs** we discover that manifestations of humanoids with a message for mankind are remarkably similar to other, visionary experiences. And **Great Hauntings** charts the lengthy history of horror at Glamis Castle in Scotland. Can the distant past be best understood in terms of global catastrophes?

**Velikovsky** explains the theories of the controversial scientist who believed it could. Did the US Navy drive a ship's crew mad by trying to make them – and their ship – invisible? Read the allegations in the first part of the **Philadelphia experiment**

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# Where did Darwin go wrong?

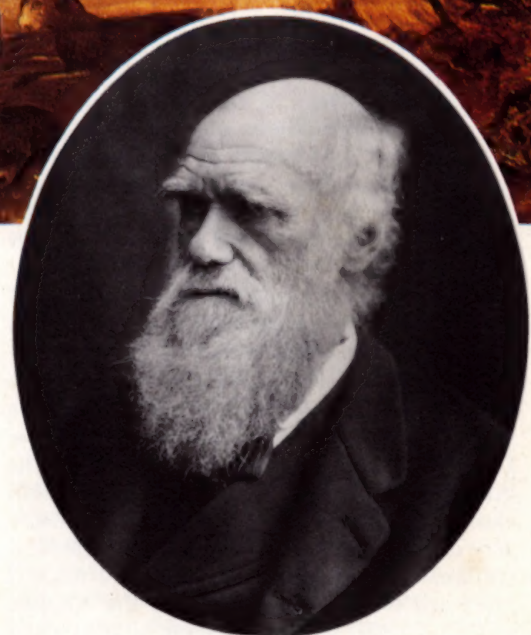
**Does the neo-Darwinian theory of natural selection really conflict with the biblical account of creation? Can it account for the astonishing variety of living things? RUPERT SHELDRAKE examines the arguments**

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION, in its most general terms, states that new species of plants and animals are descended from species that existed before them. This is what used to be called the theory of descent, or transformism. It was widely known and discussed for two generations before Charles Darwin published his *Origin of species* in 1859; indeed, one version was proposed by his grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, in 1794; another was put forward by the French scientist Jean Baptiste Lamarck in 1809.

Darwin's theory conflicted with the view of the leading philosophers of the ancient world, most notably Aristotle, that species were eternally fixed and unchangeable. In the light of this classical philosophy, the biblical account of creation in the book of Genesis was interpreted to mean that God directly created all the different species of plants and animals, and that they remained unchanged thereafter.

The theory of evolution by descent was opposed throughout the 19th century – and is still opposed – by biblical fundamentalists. However, among scientists it has been widely accepted for decades, and is generally taken for granted. But to accept that species have evolved from other species – what is often referred to as the 'fact' of evolution – raises

The 19th century saw a violent clash between two conflicting views of evolution. Christian doctrine stated that the world and all that lives upon it was created by God in six days – as shown in this painting by Tintoretto (above). Charles Darwin (right) introduced a revolutionary new theory in his *Origin of species*, published in 1859, in which he suggested that evolution proceeds by the brutal process of natural selection



the questions of why species should have changed, and of how they do so. This is an area of much controversy within science.

In his famous book, whose full title was *On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*, Charles Darwin put forward a particular theory of the way in which evolution occurred. In doing so, he made the notion of evolution by descent much more credible than it had been before, because he was able to suggest a plausible mechanism – natural selection – for the transformation of species. Thenceforth the general theory of evolution by descent and Darwin's theory of natural selection became closely associated with each other. However, it is important to realise that it is possible to accept the idea of evolution without accepting Darwin's explanation of it.

Although the arguments for evolution are



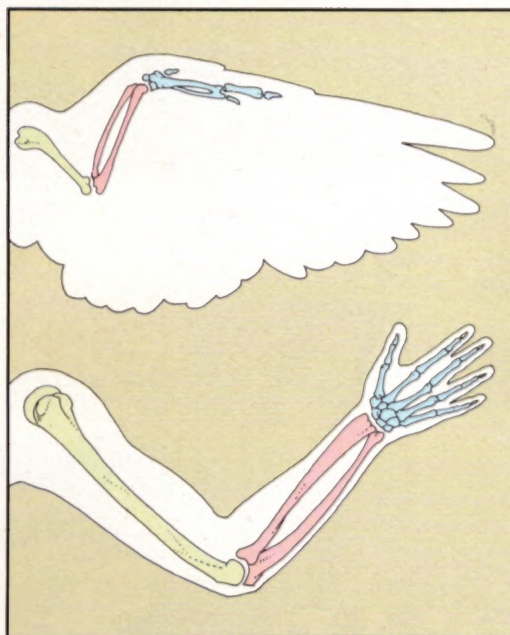
## Evolution

well-known, it seems worth reminding ourselves of them. The first depends on the fossil record, in which the remains of vast numbers of animals and plants are preserved, often in layers that indicate the sequence in which they were laid down. These fossils show that many of the different kinds of animals and plants that once existed on the Earth have become extinct. The best-known are the giant reptiles, such as the dinosaurs, which died out about 70 million years ago.

Since in many cases new types of organism resemble ones that existed before them, it is reasonable to suppose that they were descended from pre-existing species. For example, the birds and mammals appeared long after the reptiles had become established, and share many anatomical features, such as having two pairs of limbs with five digits at the end, which in spite of their different modifications in the wings of birds, fingers of men, and flippers of whales, show a common underlying pattern.

The second reason for thinking that evolution occurs is provided by the many different breeds and varieties of domesticated animals and plants. Think for example, of the differences between dogs such as greyhounds and Pekinese. The fact that these have been produced by selective breeding from similar ancestral stock shows that the form of the species is not rigidly fixed, but can change with time.

Thirdly, the geographical distribution of certain species of plants and animals suggests that they have evolved by descent. An example that greatly impressed Darwin was that of the finches native to the Galapagos Islands, off the coast of South America. Distinct species, adapted to different methods of feeding, occur on these islands within short distances, while on the mainland there are closely related finches. The simplest explanation of these facts is that a few finches migrated from the mainland to the islands, and that some of their descendants evolved into new species adapted to the local conditions. Many other similar examples have been described.



Left: the wing of a bird (top) and the arm of a human being (bottom) which, although very different in appearance, have similar structures. This fact is strong evidence for evolution, suggesting that birds and men have a common ancestor from which the wing and arm structure is evolved. The leading philosophers of the ancient world had believed that species were eternally fixed and unchangeable



Above: a Staffordshire bull terrier. When bull-baiting died out in England, around 1835, dog-fighting became popular, and the breed of Staffordshire bull terrier was created by crossing bulldogs and terriers. It is the result of a particularly ruthless form of selection: dogs that were not good fighters were simply drowned

Lastly, the fact that animals and plants can be grouped together in hierarchical systems of classification supports the notion of descent. For instance, the human species is grouped with the primates, together with monkeys and apes; the primates are grouped with other mammals; and the mammals with other vertebrates. The similarities within each group are most easily explained in terms of descent from common ancestors; the bigger the grouping, the more remote the ancestral links.

The only alternative to the evolutionary interpretation of the evidence is to suppose that species were specially created from non-living matter at frequent intervals over a long period of time, in such a way that new species resembled species that had been created before them, and in the same geographical areas.

This seems extremely implausible, but some people feel bound to adopt this theory in an attempt to harmonise the factual evidence with one particular interpretation of the accounts of creation in the book of



Left: a model skeleton of the dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Dinosaurs died out about 70 million years ago, but their fossil remains survive, providing powerful support for the theory of evolution



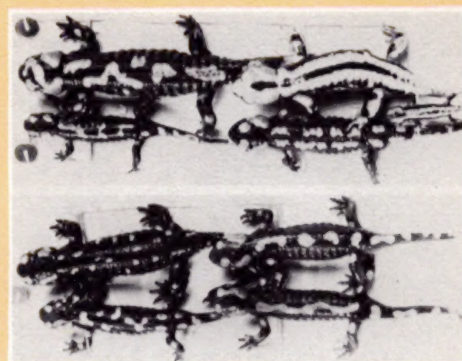
## Learning from experience

Can acquired characteristics be inherited? The neo-Darwinian answer is a categorical no – but there exists experimental evidence that suggests otherwise.

Between 1903 and 1908 a brilliant young Austrian biologist named Paul Kammerer (see page 596) conducted a series of experiments with spotted salamanders, *Salamandra maculosa*. These newt-like creatures have yellow spots on a black ground; and, like the chameleon, they will change colour according to their background.

Kammerer raised two groups of salamanders, one on yellow sand (top panel, left), the other on black sand (bottom panel, left). Sure enough, the salamanders changed colour.

His next step was to breed from these salamanders, to see whether their adapted colouring was passed on to the next generation. And, astoundingly, it



was. The colour of the offspring of yellow parents reared on yellow sand (top panel, top right) was almost pure yellow.

These experiments – and others that Kammerer conducted – seemed to prove conclusively that acquired characteristics could be inherited. Such a proof would revolutionise genetics, and Kammerer's results deserved – at the very least – careful scrutiny. Instead his work was greeted by the scientific community with a malicious derision that drove him, in the end, to suicide.



Above and below: two of the many distinct and specialised finch species that occur on the Galapagos Islands. Darwin cited these birds as evidence for evolution



Genesis. But this is completely unnecessary, even for those who accept the authority of the Bible. In fact, there is surprisingly little conflict between modern scientific theories of the development of the Universe and the sequence of events described in the first chapter of Genesis.

The Universe is generally supposed by physicists to have originated with an enormous primordial explosion. As the Universe began to cool down after this 'big bang', matter in the form of atoms condensed from the incandescent plasma, and vast gas clouds gave rise to galaxies of stars. Relatively small bodies of hot matter were then captured by the gravitational pull of the stars and became planets orbiting around them. One such was the Earth. As the Earth cooled, the water vapour condensed and gave rise to the seas. Life originated in the water, and among the earliest living organisms were plants capable of photosynthesis. Animals arose first in the sea, and later colonised the dry land. From these land animals in the fullness of time, Man evolved.

The first chapter of Genesis describes a similar sequence: first the separation of light from darkness – or in other words, of radiation from matter. Then the separation of the Earth as a single mass from the heavens, and the subsequent appearance of the seas and dry land. Then the origin of plants, then of animals in the sea, then of land animals, and finally of Man.

These two descriptions of the origins of things differ in that the scientific one supposes that the time scale was of thousands of

millions of years, whereas the Bible speaks of the different stages as taking place on different days. If the term 'day' is interpreted to mean an age, there need be little conflict between the two accounts. The main discrepancy is that in Genesis, the Sun and Moon appear only on the fourth 'day'. But this in itself is significant in that it shows that the term 'day' is not to be taken literally, for it could not possibly have a literal meaning if the Sun, by the rising or setting of which days are measured, did not yet exist, according to the very same text. Moreover, other passages in the Bible make it perfectly plain that human measurements of time are not the same as divine ones. 'One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.'

In the end, it seems that the protracted controversy between biblical fundamentalists and evolutionists, so often portrayed as a dramatic confrontation of science and religion, comes down to little more than a dispute over the meaning of the word 'day' in a context that provides no basis for assuming that a day must consist of 24 hours. Thus there seem to be no good grounds, even religious ones, for rejecting the theory of evolution by descent.

However, a new series of controversies springs up as soon as we accept this theory. Once again, underlying many of them are religious and philosophical questions, although on the surface they may seem to be purely scientific.

The most important of these controversies concerns the origin of new species: do





they come into being gradually, or as a result of sudden 'sports' or jumps? This question has been hotly debated for over a hundred years. The two schools of thought are usually referred to as gradualism and punctuationalism.

Darwin himself was a gradualist, and so are his modern followers, the neo-Darwinians. Their reasons for adopting this point of view are more philosophical than scientific.

Even before the publication of *Origin of species*, several writers pointed out that the theory of evolution did not contradict the idea of the creation of species by God, because God might just as well make a new species by transforming an existing one as by forming it directly from non-living matter. On this view, the Creator was continually guiding the evolutionary process and making new species through it. One advantage of this interpretation was that it supplied a ready explanation for the relatively sudden appearance of new kinds of animals and plants.

On the other hand, those who espoused the philosophy of materialism had to try to explain the process of evolution in terms of the laws of matter alone, and were at pains to reject anything that smacked of the miraculous. Darwin himself favoured gradualism because of his materialist presuppositions, and rejected the idea of sudden changes because, as he wrote in *Origin of species*, it 'seems to me to enter into the realms of miracle, and to leave those of science'.

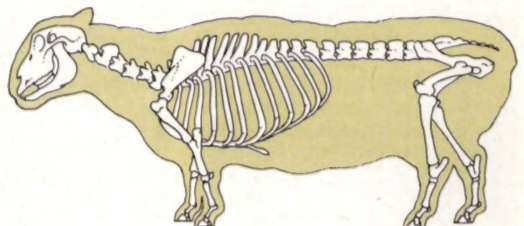
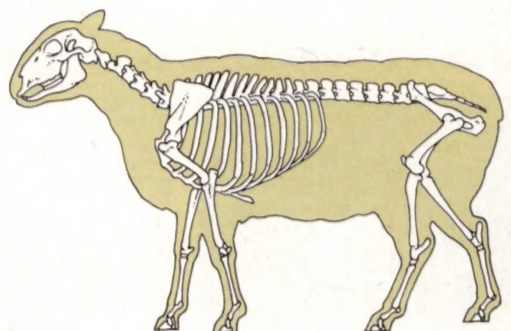
Although such philosophical views have continued to play a hidden but important role in the debate, there is no real reason for the belief in a Creator to lead to a denial of the gradual evolution of new species, or on the other hand for a materialist to deny sudden jumps in evolution. Surprisingly the two concepts can be reconciled. There are in fact



Top: this two-headed calf was the result of a genetic mutation. It lived for only a few days

Above: a hairy boy born in north-eastern China in 1977. Strange features such as this can arise through chance combinations of genes, but are unlikely to be favoured by natural selection

Right: an ancon, or short-legged sheep, compared with a normal sheep. Genetic engineering was practised long before the theory was known: the ancon species was bred from a single ram-lamb born in 1791



theologians who argue that God created the different forms of life by setting up the Universe and the laws of nature, including the possibility of random genetic change, in the first place in such a way that evolution was bound to occur exactly as neo-Darwinians think it does. By contrast, some materialists accept the idea of sudden large changes, but regard them as random.

Now, leaving aside these philosophical questions, we can turn to the factual evidence concerning the origin of new species.

The main argument used by Darwin in favour of gradualism relied on an analogy with the development of breeds of domesticated animals, such as dogs, pigeons and rabbits, and varieties of cultivated plants, such as cabbages, dahlias and grapes, by the agency of human selection. He reasoned that just as animal and plant breeders select favourable specimens as parents of the next generation, and thus gradually improve the breed or variety in a particular direction, so in the wild natural selection would result in parents well-adapted to the conditions of life leaving more offspring than those less well-adapted. There would thus be a progressive improvement in the adaptation of the race to its environment.

However, the controversial question is not how locally adapted races arise *within* species, but how species themselves originate. Ironically, this is the very question that Darwin failed to answer satisfactorily in *Origin of species*. He simply assumed, as his followers also assume, that the same kinds of process continued over long periods of time would lead to the gradual divergence of races into new species. No one disputes that this may sometimes occur, but the opponents of gradualism claim that many, if not most, species arise much more quickly, by relatively large and sudden transformations.

This case, like Darwin's own, can be based on an analogy with the breeding of domesticated animals and plants. For while

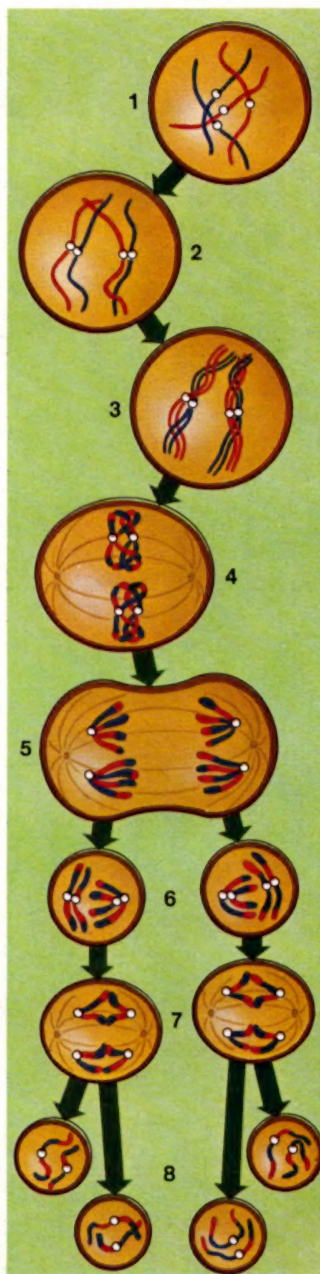


some new varieties or strains have been produced gradually by long-continued selection, others have originated suddenly from occasional 'sports' or freaks. In fruit trees, for example, peculiar shoots sometimes appear, differing from all the others, from which new varieties can be propagated. In the history of animal breeding too, new breeds have been started from spontaneously occurring freaks.

If in the course of evolution, freaks or sports produced by wild animals and plants occasionally survived and managed to breed successfully, a distinct new type derived from the original species could come into existence more or less suddenly. For example, it seems probable that a fossil rhino genus called *Teleoceras* originated in this way. These dwarf, short-legged rhinos resemble ancon sheep and, like them, may have appeared suddenly as a result of a genetic mutation leading to the improper development of cartilage at the end of bones, a condition known as achondroplasia. If this were so, we would not expect to find in the fossil record a whole range of intermediate types between *Teleoceras* and the rhino species from which it evolved.

No missing links have been found. As a general rule, in the fossil record new species appear, continue relatively unchanged for maybe several million years, and then become extinct. There is little evidence to support the gradualist view. Darwin argued that this was due to the imperfection of the fossil record, but after 120 years of further research, this argument is wearing rather thin.

Furthermore, calculations of the rates of evolutionary change, based on data from fossil horses and other groups of animals, have shown that they are much too slow to be able to account for the gradual appearance of all the different kinds of organisms in the time available, long though it has been. The neo-Darwinians reply that gradual changes



Above: a diagram of the process of *meiosis*, which occurs in the production of sex cells. Chromosomes pair (1 and 2), become double-stranded (3) and thicken, exchanging segments of their strands to mix the genetic information (4); the pairs separate (5), and the cell divides (6). The two-stranded chromosomes in each cell divide and the cells split (7). The resultant cells (8) have half the number of chromosomes of the parent cell. This number redoubles in sexual reproduction

Left: smooth hawkbeard, a result of faulty meiosis



might have been much less slow at some periods than others. But in admitting this, they shift their position so that it comes much closer to the idea of discontinuous or sudden changes.

One of the most convincing reasons for thinking that sudden jumps occur is that many present-day species differ from more or less closely related species in the number and structure of their chromosomes. Changes in chromosomes of these types are known to occur occasionally during the process of cell division, known as meiosis, that produces egg and sperm cells. The chromosomes of the mother cell come together in pairs at the beginning of meiosis, and normally one of each pair then moves into each of the two daughter cells. But sometimes pairs fail to separate properly, and one daughter cell gets too many chromosomes, and the other too few. Consequently offspring derived from these abnormal cells have the wrong number of chromosomes. They are often both abnormal and sterile as a consequence; but if they do manage to breed, either through self-fertilisation, as commonly occurs in plants, or by crossing with similarly abnormal organisms (their own brothers or sisters, for instance), they may give rise to a new species straight away; the differences in chromosome numbers set up barriers to interbreeding and keep the new type separate from the parent species. Other chromosomal changes during meiosis involving the breaking and rejoining of chromosomes in the wrong places can have a similar effect.

### Hopeful monsters

Those who advocate sudden jumps in evolution do not deny that the great majority of freakish organisms will be weeded out by natural selection. On the long time scale of evolution, it is sufficient that only very rarely are 'hopeful monsters' able to survive and reproduce. Even neo-Darwinians can hardly deny that this might have happened. The two schools of thought differ mainly in their emphasis, one considering that sudden jumps have played little part in the evolution of new species and the other claiming that many, if not most, new types have arisen in this way. On balance, the available evidence supports the second of these views, although a great deal of work remains to be done.

This is what the current controversy among evolutionary theorists is all about. At first sight it is puzzling that these issues should raise such passionate feelings. But as in earlier controversies, some of the contenders are fighting to defend not just scientific theories but their fundamental beliefs. This time, however, it is the materialists who feel threatened by the challenge to orthodoxy.

*What are the limitations of the neo-Darwinian theory of evolution? See page 1214*



# Half man, half bird

**Time and again, terrifying winged humanoids have been glimpsed, on the ground or in flight, by reliable witnesses. JANET and COLIN BORD describe the most amazing of such mystery reports**

TALES OF HUGE BIRDS carrying off children are terrifyingly credible. The sightings of creatures resembling latter-day pterodactyls strain the powers of belief much more. But the cases we now describe would be dismissed by most people as utterly unbelievable: fantastic stories of man-like beings with wings. Yet they are told by ordinary, sincere people.

In the United States, on 18 September 1877, a winged human being was seen over Brooklyn, New York. Few details are available, but a similar figure was seen in September 1880, not far away at Coney Island. It was described in the *New York Times*, none too seriously, as 'a man with bat's wings and improved frog's legs'.

Sightings of winged humanoids seem to be more widely distributed around the globe than those of giant birds and supposed

In West Virginia, USA, a winged figure as big as a small aircraft blocked the road in front of a car in the early 1960s. It took off 'straight up' – a seemingly impossible feat for a creature of such a size. This may have been the first sighting of the Mothman, which was to be seen frequently in the state five years later

pterodactyls. The next report comes from Vladivostok, in the far eastern USSR. On 11 July 1908 a man walking in the Sikhote Alin mountains saw what looked like a man's footprint on the path ahead. His dog began to act strangely, and something could be heard trampling among the bushes. After several minutes of standing and listening, the walker, V.K. Arsenyev, threw a stone towards the unseen creature, whereupon he heard the sound of wings beating and saw something 'large and dark' fly away over the river. Unfortunately he could make out no details because of fog. Later, when Mr Arsenyev told local people what had happened, they identified the creature as 'a man who could fly in the air', well-known to hunters in the area.

A Brazilian couple, the Reals, had a closer view of 'their' winged people. Early in the 1950s they were walking one night in a wood near the sea at Pelotas in the state of Rio





Grande do Sul when they noticed two gigantic 'birds' in the trees. As they got nearer, the 'birds' came down to the ground, and the amazed pair saw that the creatures were about 6 feet (1.8 metres) tall and looked human. They were crouching on the ground as if observing the Reals. Luiz do Rosário Real wished to approach them more closely, but his wife insisted that they return home.

A strange report describing an even closer sighting comes from Houston, Texas, USA. The night of 18 June 1953 was hot; three neighbours were sitting out on the front porch of an apartment house in the small hours. Mrs Hilda Walker said later:

We were just talking idly, when I looked up and about twenty-five feet [7.5 metres] away I saw a huge shadow across the lawn. I thought at first it was the magnified reflection of a big moth caught in a nearby street light. Then the shadow seemed to bounce upward into a pecan tree. . . . I could see him plain and could see he had big wings folded at his shoulders. There was a dim gray light all around him.

The shadow was also seen by Howard Phillips and Judy Meyers, and they described it as 'the figure of a man with wings like a bat. He was dressed in gray or black tight-fitting clothes. He stood there for about 30 seconds, swaying on the branch of the old pecan tree. Suddenly the light began to fade out slowly.' They agreed also that he was about 6½ feet (2 metres) tall and wore a black cape, tight trousers and quarter-length boots.

As the light faded, the figure seemed to melt away, and the three heard a loud swooshing noise over the houses and saw a white flash. All were adamant that they had seen this inexplicable apparition.

### First sighting of Mothman?

Not quite so clearly visible, but still definitely man-shaped, was the figure standing in the middle of the road ahead of a woman driving her father along Route 2 in the Chief Cornstalk Hunting Grounds of West Virginia, USA, in 1960 or 1961. As they got closer, the driver slowed the car. The two apprehensive witnesses saw that the grey figure was much larger than a man. The driver later reported what happened next:

A pair of wings unfolded from its back and they practically filled the whole road. It almost looked like a small airplane. Then it took off straight up . . . disappearing out of sight in seconds. We were both terrified. I stepped on the gas and raced out of there. We talked it over and decided not to tell anybody about it. Who would believe us anyway?

Who indeed? Although she did not know it, she was possibly the first witness of a winged being later nicknamed 'Mothman', which in late 1966 plagued an area of West Virginia called Point Pleasant. First to see it at that



Above: Mothman was said to lack any visible arms or head, to have luminous red eyes and huge wings, and to be bigger than a man

Below: a 'birdwoman' flew so close to three marines in Vietnam that they could hear her wings flapping

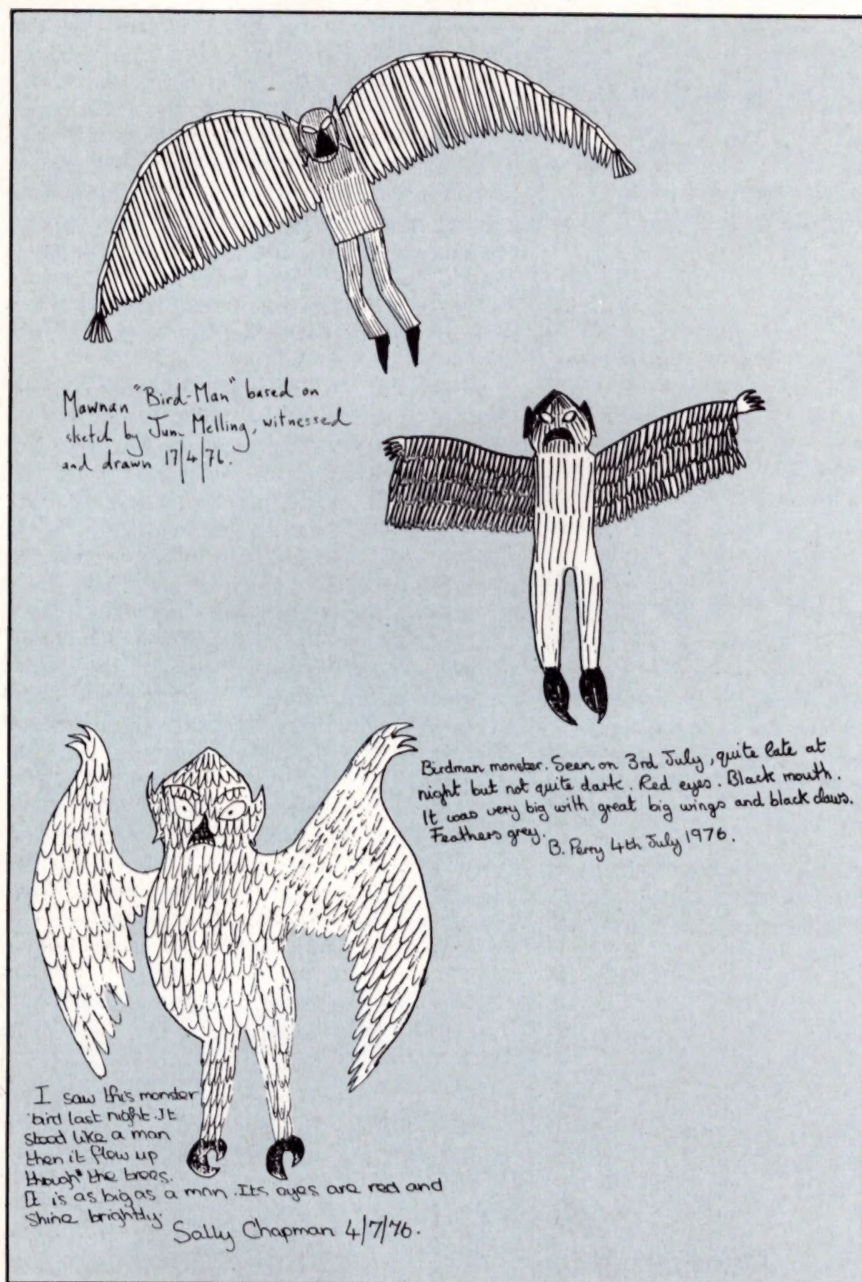
time were two young local couples, Mr and Mrs Roger Scarberry and Mr and Mrs Steve Mallette. Late on the night of 15 November they were driving through the 'TNT area' where there was an abandoned wartime explosives factory. As they passed an old generator plant, they saw in the darkness two bright red circles, which looked like eyes. As the circles moved, the couples saw a man-shaped figure, between 6 and 7 feet (1.8 and 2 metres) tall, greyish in colour and with big folded wings; it was shuffling along on two legs.

Roger, who was driving, quickly turned the car in the direction of safety and they drove off at speed. But they saw the creature, or another similar one, standing near the road and as they went past it spread its bat-like wings and began to follow them. Even though they accelerated to 100 miles per hour (160 km/h), the 'bird' kept pace with them – without flapping its wings. Mrs Mallette could hear it squeaking 'like a big mouse'. When they reported their experience at the sheriff's office, the deputy could see they were scared and he drove straight to the TNT area, but saw nothing strange.

The story was publicised and Point Pleasant immediately became a focus of attention for monster-hunters. Armed men searched the TNT area but did not find their prey. However, Mothman was still around: on the evening of 16 November he appeared to Mrs







Marcella Bennett who was visiting friends living in the TNT area. She was sitting in the parked car when she noticed a figure in the darkness. 'It seemed as if it had been lying down. It rose up slowly from the ground. A big gray thing. Bigger than a man, with terrible glowing red eyes.' Like the two couples on the previous night, Mrs Bennett seemed hypnotised by Mothman's red eyes. As she stood there staring at it, she and her baby daughter were grabbed by a friend and dragged into the house.

During the following days, numerous people saw Mothman – or believed they did. How many of the sightings were caused by the 'contagion' of news stories, we shall never know. The writer John Keel went to the Point Pleasant area to investigate at first hand. From the many reports he collected, he established that Mothman was between 5 and 7 feet (1.5 and 2 metres) tall, grey or

Drawings made by three young witnesses of the Cornish Owlman, with their own descriptions. The resemblance between the sighting of 3 July and the one made three months earlier is striking

brown in colour and man-shaped but without any arms or head. It had luminous bright red eyes where a man's shoulders would be. The wings were folded back when not in use, and the wingspread was about 10 feet (3 metres). The majority of sightings were made in November and December 1966; then Mothman was gone.

Three marines on guard duty near Da Nang in South Vietnam, in July or August 1969, got a closer view of the extraordinary entity that flew over them in the early hours of the morning. The story was later told by one of them, Earl Morrison:

All of a sudden – I don't know why – we all three looked out there in the sky and we saw this figure coming toward us. It had a kind of glow and we couldn't make out what it was at first. It started coming toward us, real slowly. All of a sudden we saw what looked like wings, like a bat's, only it was gigantic compared to what a regular bat would be. After it got close enough so we could see what it was, it looked like a woman. A naked woman. She was black. Her skin was black, her body was black, the wings were black, everything was black. But it glowed. It glowed in the night – kind of a greenish cast to it.

The three saw her long enough to notice that she had arms, hands and fingers, but that these were joined to her wings. They just stood and watched as she flew overhead, a couple of yards above them.

### The Cornish Owlman

Sometimes, as in this report, the sightings have been single ones, the mysterious winged entity afterwards disappearing as if it never existed. And sometimes, as in West Virginia in 1966, there have been repeated sightings in a small area, but still without any real clues emerging as to the nature of the apparition. Perhaps the strangest series of reports of 'winged things' are those concerning the 'Owlman', seen in Cornwall, England, in 1976 and again in 1978. The Owlman's territory was very small – the area around Mawnan Church on the south coast.

He was first seen on 17 April 1976, hovering over the church tower, by June Melling (12 years old) and her sister Vicky (9 years old). June described and drew a feathered birdman. Nearly three months passed before the second sighting, made on 3 July. Again the witnesses were young girls: 14-year-old Sally Chapman and Barbara Perry. They were camping in the woods and at about 10 p.m. they realised that they were not alone. They heard a strange hissing noise, and then saw a figure standing not far away among the pine trees. Sally described what they saw:

It was like a big owl with pointed ears, as big as a man. The eyes were red and glowing. At first, I thought it was someone dressed up, playing a joke,



trying to scare us. I laughed at it, we both did, then it went up in the air and we both screamed. When it went up, you could see its feet were like pincers.

Barbara added: 'It's true. It was horrible, a nasty owl-face with big ears and big red eyes. It was covered in grey feathers. The claws on its feet were black. It just flew straight up and disappeared in the treetops.'

The next day, 4 July, yet another young girl, Jane Greenwood, along with her sister, saw the Owlman. Jane described what they saw in a letter to the local paper:

It was Sunday morning and the place was in the trees near Mawnan Church, above the rocky beach. It was in the trees standing like a full-grown man, but the legs bent backwards like a bird's. It saw us and quickly jumped up and rose straight up through the trees.

My sister and I saw it very clearly

#### Further reading

Janet and Colin Bord, *Alien animals*, Granada 1980  
Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman, *Creatures of the outer edge*, Warner 1978  
John A. Keel, *Strange creatures from time and space*, Sphere 1976

The Owlman sightings took place in an area of ancient significance: near Mawnan Church, which was built inside a prehistoric earthwork (below). Sally Chapman and Barbara Perry encountered the creature in nearby woods (bottom)

things, but that is not true. We really saw the bird man, though it could have been somebody playing a trick in very good costume and make-up.

But how could it rise up like that? If we imagined it, then we both imagined the same thing at the same time.

The 'Morgawr Monster' she refers to is a sea monster that was also putting in regular appearances in Falmouth Bay during 1976. UFOs were seen in the area too – Falmouth Bay was the best place to be in 1976 if you longed for a strange experience.

After July 1976 the Owlman apparently did not reappear until June 1978. Early that month a 16-year-old girl saw 'a monster, like a devil, flying up through the trees near old Mawnan Church.' On 2 August three young French girls also saw him near the church. They were frightened by something 'very big, like a great big furry bird'. It was white with a 'gaping mouth and big round eyes'.

Why should strange events occur together at certain points on the globe? If some form of energy, known or unknown, is involved in the genesis of these strange happenings, it would seem that it tends to focus or concentrate in limited areas at specific times. The result is an upsurge in sightings of monsters and UFOs, and an increase in strange happenings of all kinds.

Doubtless there will be waves of sightings of weird winged creatures again. But, as with UFOs and the bigfoot, it seems very unlikely that we shall acquire unambiguous physical traces of the things seen – we cannot count on having a corpse to study. The phenomena seem too elusive.



before it rose up. It has red slanting eyes and a very large mouth. The feathers are silvery grey and so are his body and legs. The feet are like big, black crab's claws.

We were frightened at the time. It was so strange, like something in a horror film. After the thing went up there was crackling sounds in the tree tops for ages.

Later that day we spoke to some people at the camp-site, who said they had seen the Morgawr Monster on Saturday, when they were swimming with face masks and snorkels in the river, below where we saw the bird man. They saw it underwater, and said it was enormous and shaped like a lizard.

Our mother thinks we made it all up just because we read about these





**Psychokinesis – the power of the human mind to influence physical objects – proves an elusive phenomenon under laboratory conditions. Exasperatingly, this is one of the most fascinating aspects of psi. GUY LYON PLAYFAIR reports on the scientific findings**

OF ALL THE PHENOMENA OF PSI – the name given by researchers to parapsychology – psychokinesis has proved the most difficult to pin down under experiment. The Oxford dictionary defines it as ‘the movement of physical objects by mental influence without physical contact’; more simply, it is mind over matter. It manifests itself in many ways: the bending of pieces of metal, the movement of objects, the influencing of chemical processes such as the developing of photographic film and of biological substances like blood or body tissue, all without direct contact or any explanation in terms of orthodox physics.

Psychokinesis – PK for short – has a long



## Phenomenal successes

history. It has engaged the attentions of scientists since at least the 17th century, when Sir Francis Bacon suggested using ‘the motions of shuffling cards, or casting dice’ as a way of testing what he described as ‘the binding of thoughts’. (This is, of course, precisely what Dr J. B. Rhine did more than two centuries later, when he embarked upon his 50-year study of psychic phenomena under laboratory conditions.)

However, it was only after the birth of Spiritualism in the mid 19th century that serious attempts were made to find out exactly what was going on. In 1854 Count Agénor de Gasparin published an account of table-turning experiments in Switzerland, and concluded that the human will could act on matter at a distance. This opinion was supported the following year by Professor Marc Thury of the Academy of Geneva. The men reached their conclusions quite independently after thorough and extensive experiments with groups of friends, and neither thought it necessary to bring in the idea of ‘spirits’ to explain the workings of what they saw as a hitherto unrecognised force in nature.

At the same time, across the Atlantic, Professor Robert Hare of Pennsylvania University set out to debunk what he called the ‘popular madness’ and ‘gross delusion’ of Spiritualism. But after a number of careful experiments using standard laboratory equipment – in one of them he recorded the exertion of a force equal to 18 pounds (8 kilograms) on an empty spring balance – he

changed his mind, and even became a Spiritualist himself.

In April 1870 two eminent parapsychologists embarked upon a series of 29 well-controlled and documented tests. One was the outstanding medium D.D. Home, and the other was William Crookes, one of the foremost scientists of his time, who had been made a Fellow of the Royal Society while still in his thirties for his discovery of the element thallium, and was later knighted. Crookes was soon fully convinced that Home was able to produce a variety of genuine PK effects, from rappings on tables and levitations of objects (including people, among them Mrs Crookes) to alterations in the weight of inert bodies. Many such effects were measured and recorded. There was, Crookes declared confidently, a new form of energy, which he called the *psychic force*, and he was one of the first to draw attention to the ‘manifest relationship to certain psychological conditions’ of what we now call PK – the fact that psychic abilities are closely linked to the state of mind of the subject. He also suggested that PK implied the existence of other dimensions, with the observer ‘in infinitesimal and inexplicable contact with a plane of existence not his own.’

Later experiments gave Crookes’s ideas considerable support, and many of his experiments with Home were repeated by several European scientists, including the Nobel laureate Charles Richet and the physicist Sir Oliver Lodge, with the Neapolitan medium Eusapia Palladino as subject. She





Left: a seance in progress. The moving glass is the closest thing to true psychokinesis that most people experience. On rare occasions the glass will move on its own for a few seconds, and true PK occurs

Below: a contemporary illustration of a table-turning seance conducted in Switzerland around 1853 by Count Agénor de Gasparin. His account of his experiments, published in 1854, was one of the first to suggest that the human will can act directly on matter



Above: members of the Society for Research into Rapport and Telekinesis (SORRAT) levitate a table. The SORRAT group became so good at inducing PK that such phenomena soon became regular occurrences at their meetings

Below: Anna Vinogradova caused a pen to move by PK, in an experiment filmed in Moscow. The USSR has produced many gifted physical mediums



was studied intensively over more than two decades, most successfully by a three-man team from the British Society for Psychical Research, headed by the Hon. Everard Feilding, in 1908. Although Eusapia Palladino was not above faking 'paranormal' phenomena when she was unable to produce real ones, the team recorded a total of 470 events they were satisfied were truly inexplicable. In their 263-page report, one of the classics of psychical research, Feilding and his two colleagues – who, as well as being experienced psychical researchers, were also good amateur magicians – testified to their 'complete certainty' and 'absolute conviction' as to the genuineness of the phenomena.

It seemed that more evidence for the existence of PK was hardly necessary. But the case of a young Polish medium, Stanislaw Tomczyk, provided useful confirmation. She was carefully studied between 1912 and 1914 by a number of researchers, including Feilding (who later married her). He noted that, while she could produce poltergeist-like phenomena spontaneously and unexpectedly in her normal state, she could also produce them more or less to order under hypnosis, making spoons and matchboxes move around and even rise into the air just by placing her hands near them.

Thus, by the time Dr J. B. Rhine began his statistical analysis of PK in his laboratory at Duke University in North Carolina in 1934 (see page 13), there were already volumes of experimental evidence for its existence. Rather than amass still more evidence from the seance room, Rhine preferred to follow Bacon's suggestion and see if people could indeed 'bind' their thoughts to dice and influence the way in which they fell. After a series of rigorous experiments, using





Left: Stanislaw Tomczyk, a Polish medium whose PK abilities were carefully studied between 1912 and 1914 by a number of psychical researchers. In a state of normal consciousness, she could produce spectacular poltergeist-like effects, but could not control them; under hypnosis, however, she could produce them to order

specially designed throwing machines to prevent any possibility of the subject being able to influence the outcome physically, Rhine was able to report that they could. His subjects – not people with any particular psychic ability, simply a more or less random selection of friends and students – recorded statistically significant results, sometimes against odds of millions to one. Towards the end of his career, Rhine stated his view that PK, like telepathy and clairvoyance, is an ‘oft-repeated demonstrated experimental fact’, and is an ability we all possess.

### Mind power

Important as they were, Dr Rhine’s findings left the world no wiser as to the mechanisms involved in PK. It seemed PK was produced by the influence of the human mind, and that certain paranormal phenomena that had previously been ascribed to other causes might also be susceptible of psychological – or parapsychological – explanations. In 1964 a British psychologist, Kenneth J. Batchelor, set out with a group of trusted friends to try to reproduce the phenomena, using nothing more than positive thinking and considerable patience. If people really believed something could happen, he reasoned, then it would. And, sure enough, it did. In the course of 200 sittings, many of them recorded on tape, the group was able to produce many of the phenomena usually associated with the seance room – except that, in this case, no ‘spirits’ had been invoked. The table at which the group sat rapped in reply to questions, tilted in all directions, and repeatedly rose into the air even when somebody was sitting on it. On other occasions, it

would resist attempts to move it ‘as if glued to the floor’. Cold breezes – a frequently reported feature of poltergeist cases – were felt, ‘like standing in front of an open refrigerator’, objects were thrown around the room by unknown means, and one sitter was dumped on the floor as his chair was pulled from under him ‘as if by a steel hand.’

An interesting feature of Batchelor’s work, also reported by the Philip group in Toronto and the SORRAT researchers in the USA (see pages 1021 and 1210) was that, although PK could certainly be produced to order, it tended to get out of control and manifest itself in the least expected ways, indicating either the action of some kind of subconscious force in the subjects, or the presence of independent entities – a possibility that seemed to lead right back to the controversial claims of the 19th-century Spiritualists. Whatever PK was, it was proving very elusive, and it came as a relief to researchers when physical mediums, who seemed to have disappeared from the scene altogether, suddenly began to reappear in the late 1960s. Here they had a more reliable source of PK phenomena.

The most important of these physical mediums is Nina Kulagina, a Leningrad woman born in the 1920s who became known to Western researchers in 1968. She is rare among psychics in being a powerful PK medium who co-operates fully with scientists and is able to produce effects to order roughly 80 per cent of the time. She has been filmed in action several times, and there is no evidence that she has ever used trickery. Benson Herbert, a British investigator, has called her ‘the answer to a parapsychologist’s prayer’.

She can make small objects move either towards or away from her on a table top, and can even cause three different articles to move in different directions at once. She has been observed stopping a pendulum and

Below: the British medium Suzanne Padfield. The psychical researcher Benson Herbert (bottom) found that she was able to influence the strength of a beam of polarised light







Children and adolescents often have astonishing psychokinetic powers. June Knowles (left) can cause a plastic mobile to move inside a bell jar, while the young Californian psychic David Shepherd (below) specialises in bending metal



setting it swinging in a different plane. She has caused the downward movement of one pan of a scale while the other pan carried an extra weight. In addition, according to Dr G.A. Sergeyev, she has been able to stop the beating of a frog's heart and – even more alarming – to give a sceptical observer a heart attack.

Benson Herbert has good reason to believe in her powers. When she placed a hand on his forearm during a series of experiments held in a Leningrad hotel room in 1973, he felt unbearable heat. 'I think it possible,' he says, 'that if Kulagina had maintained her grip on my arm for half an hour or so, I would have followed the way of the frog.' Fortunately, like many PK mediums, she also appears to have some healing abilities, and has apparently managed to revive a dead fish in a tank.

After seeing a film of Kulagina in action, a New York medical technician named Felicia

Parise decided to see if she, too, could move things with her mind. After more than two months of hard practice, she succeeded, and was able to cause movement of a plastic bottle under the watchful lens of a film camera. Then, in one of her few laboratory experiments, she was asked to try to deflect the needle of a compass mounted inside an electronic metal detector and placed on a sealed packet of film. The needle swung through  $15^\circ$  and stopped, and would not move even when researchers Graham and Anita Watkins put a magnet near it. But when they removed the compass from the 'target area', the needle returned to north; when they put it back on the original spot, the needle again moved  $15^\circ$  and again resisted attempts to move it with the magnet. The film under the compass was found to be strongly exposed, though pieces of film at other nearby locations were only partly exposed, suggesting that Parise had created a localised magnetic field through mind-power alone – a field that remained for some minutes when she ceased to concentrate on it.

### Psychic success

Parise might have become a second Kulagina, but she ended her brief career in PK in 1974, finding the work too much of a strain. In the same year, Matthew Manning began a three-year period of extensive laboratory PK tests before devoting himself to healing, and Benson Herbert published his work with another British medium, Suzanne Padfield, whom he found to be 'consistently successful' in influencing the intensity of a beam of polarised light. Meanwhile, in the USA, New York artist Ingo Swann performed a number of successful PK tests in different laboratories, including the alteration of the temperature registered by an electronic sensor, and the interference on the chart record of a shielded magnetometer. The metal-bending feats of Uri Geller (page 621) and the subjects of Professor John Hasted's experiment at Birkbeck College, London (page 858), are well-known; equally famous are the 'thought photographs' of Ted Serios (page 710). Advances in technology and research methods are, it seems, matched by the abilities of the PK mediums, to which no limit has yet been established.

'It staggers my imagination to conceive all the implications that follow now that it has been shown that the mind, by some means as unknown as the mind itself, has the ability directly to affect material operations in the world around it,' said Rhine, after a lifetime of study of PK and other psychic phenomena. 'Mind,' he concluded, 'is what the man in the street thought it was all along – something of a force in itself. . . . The great challenge is to physics, biology and psychology: scientists must take PK into account if we are ever to reach a full understanding of the whole nature of Man and the astonishing powers of his mind.'



**There are such strong links between some twins that they suffer simultaneous injuries – although miles apart – even dying at the same moment. PAUL SIEVEKING concludes the series on the parallel lives of twins**

SINCE 1953, Professor Luigi Gedda of the Gregor Mendel Institute in Rome has studied more than 15,000 pairs of twins, and has elaborated a 'clock of life' hypothesis to account for the extraordinary correspondences in the lives of twins, which he describes in his book *Chronogenetics* (1978). There seems to be a whole range of major and minor manifestations of the mental bonds that link twins, from fairly commonplace telepathy – such as a simultaneous impulse to contact each other – to the actual transmission of pain and even physical wounds. Beyond these mental bonds are the even more astonishing cases of 'carbon-copy' accidents, which stubbornly defy rational or scientific explanation.

The 45 sets of twins of Haverhill, Suffolk – all were under the age of 20 in January 1980. This strange clustering of double births was particularly noticeable in a population of just 17,500, and naturally led to much speculation about the cause. One mother of twins said, 'I'm convinced it's the water. All my neighbours and friends have had twins.' Here the parents of the newest additions to the group tempt fate by toasting the camera – in water

In *The Corsican brothers* by Alexandre Dumas, Louis de Franchi is fatally wounded in a duel. At the moment he is shot his identical twin Lucien, 500 miles (800 kilometres) away, is struck with agonising pain. He feels as if a bullet has penetrated above his sixth rib and emerged just above his hip – exactly where Louis has been shot. This was fiction; but such strange bonds between twins have been reported many times in real life.

At 4.35 on a Saturday afternoon in July 1948 Alice Lambe, a 20-year-old typist, sat reading in the parlour of her family home outside Springfield, Illinois, USA. Suddenly, she felt an enormous jolt on the left side of her body, followed by a sharp stabbing pain and a feeling of shock. The impact of the unseen blow was enough to knock her off her chair. Before passing out, she cried out to her father 'Something's happened to Dianne!'

Dianne was her identical twin who had spent the day in St Louis, 70 miles (110

## One in life and death







kilometres) away. At 4.35 p.m. the train on which she was returning was derailed and Dianne was thrown across the carriage, landing on her left side. The next thing she knew was waking up in hospital. She had suffered two fractured ribs and severe concussion. She was off work for three weeks – but then so was Alice, whose continual complaints of stabbing pain eventually led to her being x-rayed. It turned out that she had fractured the same two ribs in the same place as her sister.

On 21 July 1975 Nettie Porter was involved in a car crash in Roseville, California. At the same time her twin sister Nita Hust, at work in a hospital 400 miles (640 kilometres) away, felt severe pains down her left leg, rolled up her trousers and was amazed to see bruises working their way up the left side of her body. The matron at the hospital bore witness to the spontaneous development of her marks, which corresponded to Nettie's injuries.

Ted Wolner and Harvey Stein give the following case in *Parallels: a look at twins* (1978). A young woman had an identical twin with acute appendicitis. She said: 'When they came to tell me this, they found me on the floor in pain. When the doctors took her into surgery, I could tell the moment when they started cutting and when they sewed her up. I was in the waiting room with my mother who said, "The operation should be over by now," and I said, "No, mother, the doctor has just started." And, indeed, the doctor later verified that the operation had been delayed.'

Sometimes the transference of injury can be fatal. Mrs Joyce Crominski wrote to the

Professor Luigi Gedda with a colleague and twins at Gregor Mendel Institute in Rome. Gedda's researches into the curious correspondences in the lives of twins led him to postulate the existence of a 'clock of life' that, as it were, ticks in perfect synchronisation for both twins

Australian magazine *Truth* about her identical twin sisters Helen and Peg. At 11.15 one evening Helen awoke, white-faced and screaming, with a terrible pain in her chest. Her parents sent for an ambulance but she died on the way to hospital – as did Peg, who had been in a car accident at exactly the same time as Helen awoke. The steering wheel had penetrated her chest.

Silvia Landa, aged five, burnt herself on a hot iron, and her twin Marta felt the pain 12 miles (20 kilometres) away. Both developed a burn scar on their right hands. Jayne Wilkinson, also five, fell and broke her nose – and her twin sister Claire had a nosebleed. Helen Fry, 13, was out shopping with her grandmother when she began to stagger about quite dazed and had to be taken home, where she fell asleep on the settee. Her twin Lorraine was in hospital for a minor operation, and both twins had experienced the anaesthetic. Alan Richmond shattered his knee in several places and his identical twin Arthur suffered the pain in his knee. As Ann Matthews's pregnancy progressed, her twin Ruth Harvey put on weight and suffered early morning sickness; she also shared the labour pains.

*Dizygotic* – or non-identical – twins also experience pain transference, even though genetically they are no more alike than ordinary brothers and sisters. On two occasions when Yvonne Green had a baby, her twin brother Christopher Gool had labour pains 300 miles (480 kilometres) away. Another time when Christopher, who is a policeman, hurt his arm in a brawl, Yvonne fell over and had to go to hospital to have her arm injuries treated.

Martha Burke of California, USA, suffered



## Twins in twins

The phenomenon of the 'vanishing twin' has been studied by Dr Lucien Schneider of the University of Paris. This refers to cases where only one twin develops in the womb, while the other is reabsorbed by the mother's body. Sometimes, however, this fails to happen and one twin is born inside the other, as Isla Sneddon (left) discovered in 1980.

This 18-year-old student nurse from Glasgow, Scotland, complained of a cyst on her chest and was duly x-rayed. It was discovered that the 'cyst' was in fact her embryo twin, which had grown as big as a tennis ball and was preventing the blood supply reaching her right lung. If it had not been removed it would almost certainly have killed her. Isla said, 'I have always wanted a twin. It was a strange feeling. Perhaps I subconsciously knew.' Vanishing twins are, however, rare. From 1900 to 1979 there were only 11 similar cases reported throughout Britain.



## Twins

from burning pains in her chest and stomach as her non-identical twin was burned to death in the Canary Island aeroplane crash of 1977, which claimed 582 lives. She sued the airlines for damages; not surprisingly her claim was unsuccessful. Mrs Sheargold went to hospital with a leg injury and her twin brother was kept awake by the pain. Later he cracked a rib, and *she* felt *his* pains.

Twins frequently give birth together. Jacky and Geraldine (née Herz) had babies within days of each other on 12 occasions. Many other twins have managed this feat at least once, often with greater synchronisation. In June 1970 Vera and Anita, twin daughters of Otto Heise of Einbeck, West Germany, who were quite unlike each other in looks, character and ways of life, were both taken to the same clinic and delivered of babies at the same moment. Jennifer Vickers and Patricia Harlow gave birth 'within hours' in 1974, and the following year Maureen Smith and Yvonne Gale gave birth within 23 minutes at Kingston Hospital, Surrey, England.

Death, too, can strike at the same time. Twins John and Arthur Mowforth, aged 66, were seized with chest pains on the same evening, 22 May 1975; they were rushed to hospitals in Bristol and Windsor respectively, and died of heart attacks in the evening. Twins Ida Torrey and Freda Palmer were born in Geronimo, Texas, in 1905. They died the same day in 1979, 350 miles (560 kilometres) apart. The same year, Frederick and Mary Ward of Portland, Maine, had fatal heart attacks at the age of 71, only 12 minutes apart. And in 1981, Margaret Cox and Florence Parrish of Georgia, born exactly two hours apart in 1894, died exactly two hours apart. Margaret, who had been born first, also died first.



Dr David Lykken and his colleague Dr Thomas J. Bouchard of the University of Minnesota, USA. Their extensive investigation of identical twins suggests that many possess a strong telepathic link



Three-month-old Lisa and Mark died within minutes of each other in Dublin in 1978. In April 1980, William and Wendy, who were two months old, died in Milwaukee, USA, and five days later another set of twins, Gaynor and Miracle (3 months) died in another part of the town. It seems that they were victims of the mysterious 'sudden infant death syndrome' (or, as it is more commonly known, 'cot death').

But even apparently trivial coincidences can be striking. One of the most frequently reported is of twins going off separately to buy dresses for a party and turning up in exactly the same outfits. This happened to Nettie and Nita in California: 'Both of us showed up wearing a yellow silk-screen print dress with a flared skirt, exactly identical; even our . . . shoes were the same.'

Another, perhaps even more frequent event, is twins thinking of each other at the same time. Dr David Lykken of the University of Minnesota notes that when Nettie or Nita concentrates on her twin, the other soon telephones. This telepathic link is widely known but difficult to test by controlled experiment. Results are never quite conclusive. Thus we see from an undated clipping from the *Journal* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that Doctors Duane and Behrendt wired up a pair of identical twins in separate rooms to record their brain waves, and found that a stimulus administered to the brain of one twin was simultaneously received by the other. Yet of 16 other pairs of twins later tested by the doctors only one pair responded similarly.

Twin telepathy is sometimes strikingly demonstrated by examination results. Twins Nancy and Ruth Schneider were born in Virginia, USA, in 1927. Sitting for college entrance exams in opposite corners of the room, they chose the same essay subject and

Identical twins Maureen Smith and Yvonne Gale gave birth to sons within 23 minutes of each other in Kingston Hospital, Surrey, on 15 January 1975. Does Professor Gedda's 'clock of life' account for such startling correspondences in the lives of twins?



wrote 'word for word' the same story, according to one of the invigilators, Dr Sara Roody.

In 1979, twins Elaine and Linda Beveridge graduated in social policy and administration at Leeds University. They sat for eight papers, getting identical marks on five. On one paper there was a difference of one mark, and on two papers and their dissertations, there was a difference of two marks. It had been the same with their 'O' and 'A' level examination results: exactly the same or different by only a few marks. Duncan and Alistair Dissett of Somerset got identical marks in all the eight 'O' level papers they took in 1980.

In January 1974 twins Frank and Jack Clatworthy, also from Somerset, were in adjoining hospital beds after being injured

Norris and Ross McWhirter, creators of *The Guinness book of records*. Both sub-lieutenants in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, they were detailed to separate minesweepers – which then collided with each other at Malta



within an hour of each other in separate accidents 3 miles (5 kilometres) apart on the same road outside Taunton, returning from the same party. Frank's car overturned, and Jack's went into a hedge (according to *The Times*), or overturned as well (according to the *Daily Mail*).

On 27 December 1972 the Jay twins, Helen and Catherine, had their handbags stolen in different BBC offices in London within five minutes of each other. They telephoned their bank simultaneously to cancel their stolen credit cards.

In 1973 Wendy Styles, 13, fell in the school gym and broke her left leg. She was waiting outside for the doctor when, a couple of minutes later, her twin sister Denise was also carried out, having broken her right leg.

The McWhirter twins, who created the *Guinness book of records*, were both sub-lieutenants in the Royal Navy in the Second World War. Norris was detailed to a minesweeper in Singapore, Ross to one in the Mediterranean. The vessels made their separate ways to Valletta, Malta, where they

Right: Denise and Wendy Styles of Brading, Isle of Wight. In December 1973 the 13-year-old twins both fell and broke a leg in the school gymnasium within minutes of each other. Denise broke her right leg and Wendy her left: is this an example of 'mirror-imaging'?

#### Further reading

Luigi Gedda and Gianni Brenci, *Chronogenetics: the inheritance of biological time*, Charles Thomas (Illinois) 1978  
Ted Wolner and Harvey Stein, *Parallels: a look at twins*, E.P. Dutton (New York) 1978

collided. Similarly, twins George and Stephen Youngblood went off on motorbikes in October 1980, in opposite directions, to joyride along the backroads of Missouri, USA. Stephen died and George was injured when they met in a head-on collision.

Most of these incidents could be dismissed as the results of blind chance. Coincidences in general have the curious quality of seeming to be tremendously important, yet the nature of their significance remains elusive (see page 618).

Consider, finally, the story of Peet and Daan Snyman, identical twins from Pretoria in South Africa.

The Snymans, born in 1945, had appendicitis within a few days of each other and then meningitis at almost the same time. At the age of seven both were badly bitten in the leg by different dogs. They grew up to take such incidents for granted. In December 1964 Peet lost two fingers on his left hand while attempting to adjust the fan belt in his car. Two weeks later his twin lost the same fingers on his right hand in a car accident. This was particularly disastrous because by this time they were both professional guitarists. During the next 14 years both married and their lives diverged. Peet's wife had two children while Daan's remained childless.

But the pattern began again in February 1978 when Peet lost his right eye in a car accident. Eight months later Daan lost his left eye in another accident. Then, while Peet was out fishing, his line snapped and the lead sinker hit him in his good eye, making him totally blind. In 1980 his wife started divorce proceedings, saying she could not live with a blind man. In the circumstances, Daan began looking after his right eye very carefully, and wondered if his marriage would last much longer . . .





# Not dreaming and not mad

UFOLOGISTS OFTEN LAMENT the fact that so few UFO sightings are made by people with 'trained minds' – by which they mean scientists and engineers. But this is not really surprising, since the 'trained mind' of a witness is likely to reveal prejudices that discourage him from reporting an extraordinary experience and encourage him to

**Humanoids took an interest in cultivated plants in separate incidents in France and Spain. CHARLES BOWEN reports the testimony of the country folk who witnessed them**

explain it away. On the other hand, unsophisticated observers, unacquainted with the UFO controversy, are often impressive witnesses, telling their story without embroidering it. The sightings of classic 'flying saucers' described here may have more value by virtue of coming from people of little formal education or technical training.

## 'Dwarf-like creatures with pumpkin-shaped heads'

Close encounter of the third kind: Valensole, France, 1 July 1965

Just after 5 a.m. on 1 July 1965, Maurice Masse, a 41-year-old lavender grower, set to work in his fields situated on the Valensole plateau in the Basses Alpes of south-eastern France. At about 5.45 a.m. he stopped to have a cigarette, parking his tractor by a hillock at the end of a small vineyard that lay along the northern side of the field.

Suddenly he heard a shrill whistling noise and glanced round the hillock, fully expecting to see a helicopter; instead, he saw a dull-coloured object the size of a Renault Dauphine car, shaped like a rugby football, with a cupola on top. It was standing on six metallic legs, and there was also a central support, which appeared to be stuck into the ground. Close to the 'machine' Masse saw two boys, about eight years old, bending over a lavender plant.

Masse crossed the vineyard and approached the boys, believing them to be the 'vandals' who had picked young shoots from a number of his lavender plants on several occasions during the preceding month. Then, to his surprise, he saw that he was not



approaching boys at all, but two dwarf-like creatures with large bald heads. He was about 15 feet (5 metres) from the beings when one of them turned and pointed a pencil-like instrument at him. Immediately he was stopped in his tracks, unable to move any part of his body. (In the first reports of the case it was stated that the witness was 'paralysed', but UFO investigator Aimé Michel suggested the term *immobilised*, perhaps by some form of hypnotic suggestion.)

According to Masse's description, the creatures were less than 4 feet (1.2 metres) tall, and were wearing close-fitting grey-green overalls. They had huge pumpkin-shaped heads, but no hair – only smooth white skin. Their cheeks were wide and fleshy, narrowing to very pointed chins; the eyes were large and slanting. The witness did not mention their noses, but he did describe the mouths, which were like thin slits and opened to form lipless holes. It is rare in close encounters for humanoids to be reported as having their heads uncovered outside the craft, as in this case.

The creatures appeared to communicate



Maurice Masse, owner of vast lavender fields in south-eastern France, stands on the area where a UFO stood while he watched, unable to move. Only weeds grew in this patch of land after the incident



with each other, but not with their mouths, for inarticulate sounds seemed to come from their mid-body regions. The hapless lavender grower thought they were mocking him, although he admitted that their glances were not hostile; indeed, he never had the impression he was face to face with monsters. Masse has never disclosed what took place during the rest of the time he was immobilised, 15 feet (5 metres) from the beings.

After a few minutes the creatures returned to their machine, moving in a remarkable manner: 'falling and rising in space like bubbles in a bottle without apparent support . . . sliding along bands of light . . .' to enter the object through a sliding door. The witness said he could see them looking at him from inside the craft. Suddenly there was a thump from the central support, which retracted, the six legs began to whirl, and the machine floated away at an angle of 45°, making a shrill whistling sound. At 65 feet (20 metres) it just disappeared, although traces of its passage in the direction of Manosque were found on lavender plants for more than 100 yards (90 metres). (These plants withered, then recovered and grew taller and finer than those nearby.)

The farmer grew alarmed as the invisible bonds that held him failed to relax their grip, but after 15 minutes he slowly regained the use of his limbs. He could see marks left by some of the legs of the craft, and almost liquid mud around the hole where the central support had entered the ground. (There had been no rain in the area for several weeks.)

Masse ran down to Valensole, on the outskirts of which is the Café des sports. The proprietor, a friend, was just opening for the day, and Masse, shaken and as white as a

sheet, told him part of his story. The café owner pressed Masse for further details of what had happened, but the farmer refused to say any more because he feared the rest of his story would not be believed. His friend advised him to report the incident to the gendarmes, but Masse would not. So the café proprietor rushed to the field, saw the marks and returned to tell Masse's story.

That evening Masse took his 18-year-old daughter to see the landing site; they saw that only four of the craft's legs had left marks on the ground, and that the mud around the central hole had set like concrete.

## The world's reaction

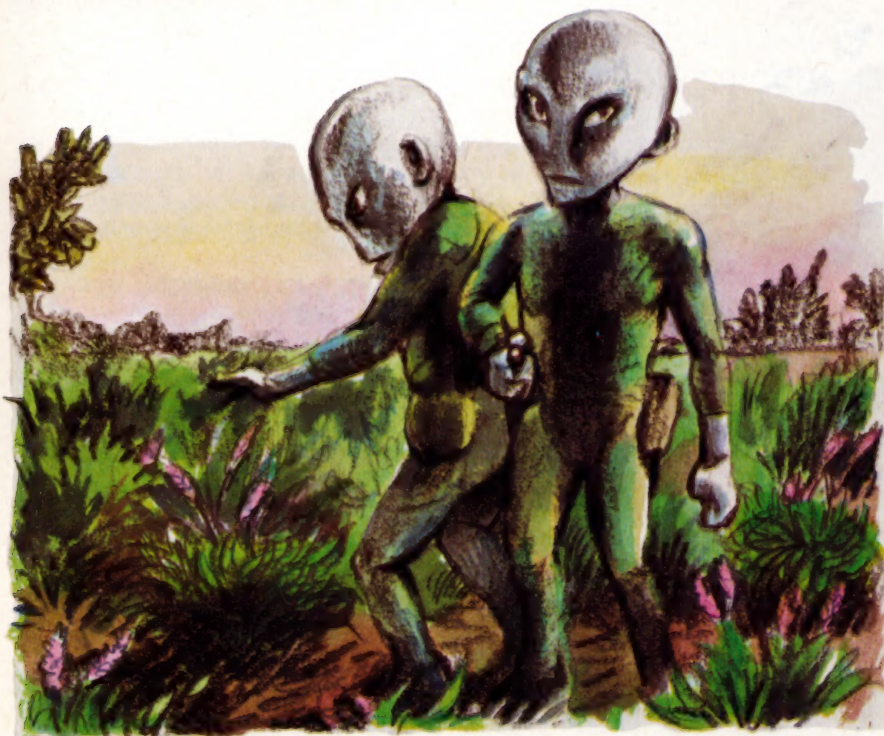
Soon after Masse's experience was made public he was questioned by the chief of the local gendarmerie. Crowds of sightseers visited the field, and Valensole was flooded with representatives of the press, radio and television. On 4 July, overwhelmed with interviews and questions, Masse collapsed, seized with an insuperable desire to sleep. Aimé Michel reported that he would have slept 24 hours a day had his wife not awakened him to make him eat.

The initial private investigation was conducted by a local magistrate, who handed his report to *Flying Saucer Review* in October 1965. He said that Masse had prevented his daughter approaching too close to the hole for he feared she might suffer some harmful effect from it; indeed, he was worried about possible genetic effects it might have on himself. In the end he filled the hole, which was shaped like an inverted funnel.

Aimé Michel interviewed the witness twice at Valensole in 1965, and found him anxious and distressed, still worried about possible effects on his health. During his second visit, Michel showed Masse a photograph of a model based on Lonnie Zamora's description of the UFO he had seen at Socorro, New Mexico, in 1964 (see page 8). Masse was staggered that someone should have photographed *his* machine; but when told that it had been seen in the USA by a policeman he sighed with relief: 'You see then that I wasn't dreaming, and that I'm not mad.'

Two years later UFO investigators visited Maurice Masse again and he took them to see the landing site. It was 10 feet (3 metres) in diameter, and distinguishable because lavender plants around the perimeter were withered, and only weeds grew in the inner area—despite the fact that it had been ploughed and replanted.

Although Masse had recovered from his experience, he was anxious to avoid any more publicity. In an endeavour to hide the location of the landing site he trimmed the mass of weeds to the shape of lavender plants. Eventually, he tore up the vineyard, ploughed the lavender field and sowed it all with wheat.





## 'A disc surrounded with a ring of coloured lights'

Close encounter of the third kind: Puente de Herrera, Valladolid, Spain, 15 August 1970

In 1974 *Flying Saucer Review* received a report from the Charles Fort Group of Valladolid in Spain, who had investigated a UFO sighting that had been made some years earlier. The witness was a 22-year-old woman, a domestic employee in the house of a farmer at Puente de Herrera, close by the river Duero, south of Valladolid. The young woman's name was withheld, at her request, as she had had no primary education, and was illiterate. We shall refer to her simply as the 'señorita'.

On the night of 15 August 1970 the señorita had been watching television when she heard a piercing whistling noise. At the same time the television picture was suddenly blotted out by a mass of lines. Playing with the controls had no effect, so she switched off the set and went to the front door of the house.

The señorita was astounded to see a weird object with various lights standing on the drive. And nearby there stood a very strange-looking 'man' who seemed to be surveying a crop of alfalfa in an adjacent field. Very scared, the young woman went back inside the house and shut the door. Then the whistling sound began again but, when she went to look out of the window of her room, both machine and 'man' had gone.

The señorita told only her boyfriend of her experience at the time. Members of her family became aware of it only in March 1972 when, after her brother-in-law had made some observation about UFOs, she told them about what she had seen. It was her brother-in-law who passed the information to the Charles Fort Group.

During the investigation that followed, J.

Macías and his fellow researchers learned that the period of time between the onset of the whistling noise and the witness first looking out of the window was about 5 minutes. The whistling noise persisted while she was peering through the door, but seemed a little less intense. She had switched off the porch lights as she usually did between 10.30 and 11.00 p.m., so she felt nobody could have seen her when she opened the door.

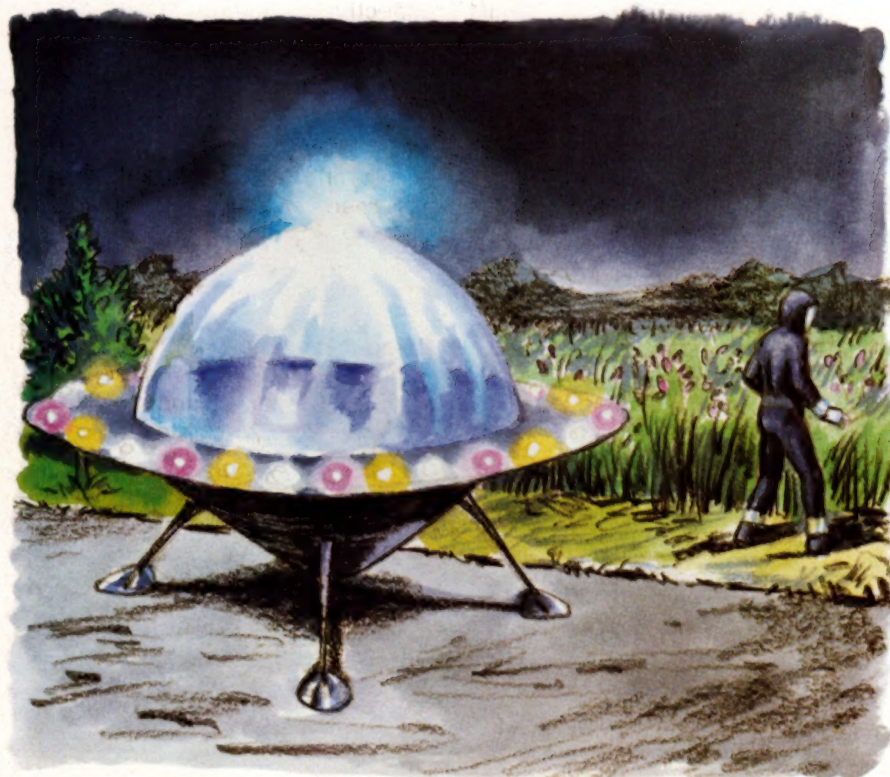
The UFO, which was balanced on several 'feet' on the road surface, was about 12 feet (4 metres) wide and 8 feet (2.5 metres) high. The upper part consisted of a hemispherical cupola, which seemed to be made of crystal. On top of this a bluish-white light revolved erratically, the light dimming whenever it slowed down. The cupola was supported by a disc surrounded with a ring of coloured lights that changed constantly from white to purple and then yellow.

The occupant of the craft was about 5 feet 10 inches (1.8 metres) tall and was dressed in a dark, tight-fitting garment and a helmet. Around his ankles and wrists there were glowing white 'bracelets' and in the middle of his belt was a square 'buckle' of similar iridescent material. The señorita was not sure about the colour of his skin, and could not see any hair. She said the 'man' seemed to be interested in the alfalfa, and walked towards it with unusually long strides.

### A persistent afterglow

According to the witness, physical vestiges of the craft were left at the landing site, for when she went to the window of her room she saw a soft glow where the object had been standing. Intrigued by this, she inspected the ground. On the surface of the road there were black footprints, similar to those made by ordinary shoes, the heel mark narrower than that of the sole. The marks must have been seen by everybody coming to the house, but the señorita told no one of her experience at the time and therefore did not draw attention to them. While they remained, however, the area where the UFO had landed continued to glow at night.

The investigators considered that the señorita's illiteracy added to the authenticity of her account on the grounds that she could hardly have fabricated a story of such complexity. After speaking with members of her family they realised that their knowledge of other UFO encounters was insufficient for her to have picked up such detailed data from them. Furthermore, there seemed to be no motivation for a hoax, for it was only by chance that she mentioned her experience to her brother-in-law 18 months after the event. Other members of the family later told the investigators that after their first interview with the señorita she had wept hysterically and rounded on her brother-in-law for having given away her secret.





# Post script

Your letters to  
THE UNEXPLAINED

Dear Sir,

On reading the two articles on the Isle of Wight (issues 17 and 18), I noted a number of points that may not be entirely accurate.

First, the alignments of ancient sites: Watkins called them leys, not ley lines, which is a modern term most researchers reject. The type of alignment illustrated on page 275 is usually given the name *geomantic corridor*. A true ley is very narrow, about 6 feet (2 metres), and ideally only a few miles long: about 20 (30 kilometres) at the very most. The Land's End-Bury St Edmund's alignment needs to be almost 2 miles (1.6 kilometres) wide to touch all the sites alleged, hence 'corridor'. Also on the map, the position given for the West Kennett stone avenue is rather misleading.

One point I'm surprised is missing in the account of the experience of Dr and Mrs White is the eerie silence they felt. Between 6.30 and 7.30 on a Saturday evening, even in January, one expects to see a lot of people out. They saw none, except for the figures carrying torches. And they saw no other vehicles whatsoever.

The best source for this story is that written by Mrs White herself in the *Hampshire County Magazine* (February and August 1973). The main difference between that and your version is that she does not imply that the lights disappeared as if suddenly turned off. She writes that the lights ('of every colour red, green and orange', not only orange) were in view when they left the ridge. But on driving up the next hill the lights had gone. Neither does she mention the figure passing through the bonnet of the car. But the figures running, and the lights around the Hare and Hounds did suddenly 'switch off'. Whatever really happened, it is a very intriguing phenomenon.

As to the second of your two articles, on Lucy Lightfoot, I quote from *The folklore of Hampshire* by Wendy Boase (Batsford 1976): 'This story has been presented in three works . . . as a genuine piece of folklore. Yet it was invented by the Rev. James Evans . . . as an exercise in "imaginative history".'

The true spirit of folklore is to weave a story around intriguing and unrelated facts in order to arrive at an 'explanation'. I have not investigated the case personally, so am not qualified to judge, but I do feel this alternative point of view should be taken into account.

I make these points not to be critical, but because I am impressed by the accurate and generally unsensational presentation in *The Unexplained*, and hope these comments may be useful.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Hall

Fleet, Hants

Dear Sir,

As a regular reader of *The Unexplained* I have always been very interested in any articles that concern my field of work, hypnotherapy. I must compliment you on your unbiased assessment of the subject in the UK today, particularly with regard to the ambiguous attitude of many members of the medical profession.

In my own practice I encounter a wide range of reactions from medical practitioners, and the

ignorance and superstitious dread of some of them never fails to amaze me.

Hypnotherapy is not magic, nor is it a universal panacea for all human ills but, used correctly in conjunction with other forms of treatment, it can often relieve a patient of his problem. As in any other field of human endeavour, there are the quacks and charlatans who are out to trick the gullible, but with a little common sense most of the pitfalls can be avoided. Ask around, any truly sincere practitioner will have plenty of happy and satisfied ex-patients. A genuine recommendation from someone of your acquaintance is usually the best guide of all.

If only people could rid their minds of superstitious fear and take the time to investigate the possibilities of correctly applied therapeutic hypnosis, so many would discover the solutions to conditions that may have afflicted them for years.

In the long-term, tranquillising drugs do not solve problems – they merely add to them. By learning to make use of their own minds, so many patients are enabled to live their lives in a way that they would never have believed possible.

Yours faithfully,

A.B. King MICH

Havant, Hants

Dear Sir,

I live in Ireland – a country where UFO sightings rarely occur. However, I am convinced that I spotted a UFO over four years ago, an event that has remained totally unexplained ever since.

It was the middle of January, 1977. That particular winter was unusually cold with plentiful snow and frost. On the day of the sighting at approximately 2.30 p.m., there was a heavy snow shower that lasted about 20 minutes. After the snow stopped falling it shone brightly and the sky was dark blue. My sister and I, aged 7 and 11 respectively, decided to go out.

Shortly after leaving the house, I noticed a peculiar object descend rapidly to about 100 feet (30 metres) above the ground (a distance of about 330 yards [300 metres] from where I was standing). I pointed it out to my sister, and was relieved that she, too, had seen it. We both watched it make two small but perfect circles. Then it rose vertically very swiftly until it was no longer visible.

Resembling no aircraft we had ever seen, this object had some peculiar characteristics. It was an oval, silvery object, about 30 feet (10 metres) long. It had neither wings nor propellers. The object did not appear to have an engine as it made no sound. I was not close enough to it to notice any windows or symbols, although of course it is possible that it had both.

Yours faithfully,

P. Hughes

Dromore, Co. Tyrone

Dear Sir,

In my article on hypnosis (page 902) two words appear to have been transposed. Braid did not present 'a new explanation of hypnosis, which he termed somnambulism'; he invented a new explanation of somnambulism, which he termed hypnosis.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Inglis

London NW3



# The future and the distant past

The rings of Jupiter. Velikovsky believed that the biblical catastrophes were caused by a comet that erupted from this planet

Some of the intriguing new series starting soon in *The Unexplained*

## Worlds in collision

Immanuel Velikovsky suggested that the Bible contained a record of natural disasters caused by a runaway comet – and started a row that continues today.

**See issue 60.**

## A breakthrough in PK

A pen writes by itself, paper self-ignites, and leather rings link together – all inside an upturned fish tank. How did the SORRAT group obtain such outstanding evidence of psychokinesis?

**See issue 61**

## Stories in the sky

Who devised the fanciful pictures in the stars, the figures we know as the constellations? When and where were they drawn? And why?

**See issue 61**

## Soviet psi: tool of terror?

Will the Third World War be a battle for mass mind control? A disturbing look at the official, and unofficial, uses of extra-sensory perception in the USSR.

**See issue 62**

## Intelligence from a distant star

Myths and legends from many cultures in all parts of the world seem to provide striking confirmation of the theory that the Earth was civilised by beings from outer space.

**See issue 62**

## Marvel of the green children

Who were the children with green skin who emerged from a cave in England in the 13th century, and 600 years later were reported in Spain? And what was their connection with ancient fairy lore?

**See issue 63**

## Secrets of the Bermuda Triangle

Ships, aircraft and people are alleged to have disappeared without trace in this small area. Were they victims of UFOs, a bizarre magnetic anomaly – or had they somehow fallen into another time dimension?

**See issue 64**

## The once and future king

The Arthurian tradition tells of a national hero, who will one day return to lead his people to greater glory. But who was Arthur? Did he really exist? **See issue 65**